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SUBJECT: Week In Review - June 27 - July 1, 2022

July 1, 2022

Welcome to July! Whether you are celebrating with friends or family, camping, vacationing or just relaxing at home, we wish you a very happy Independence Day and long weekend.

This past Wednesday, I shared [some updates](#) on important issues facing DCSD. If you haven't already, I hope you'll take a few minutes to read through it and watch the videos linked within. If nothing else, please try to find five minutes to watch this [great animated video](#) which explains how schools are funded here in Douglas County. It's very intuitive to believe that as home values rise in Douglas County that our schools receive additional funding; however that is not the case. Please get familiar with this important issue and share the video with your friends, family members and neighbors.

Due to the tremendous nationwide labor shortage, we have urgent openings in positions throughout our district. Are you interested in picking up some paid hours as a bus driver or education assistant on a bus or in one of our schools? Or maybe you have thought about teaching or subbing. Did you know that with a bachelor's degree, you can [apply for Alternative Licensure](#) through the Colorado Department of Education? Some of our best Career and Technical Education teachers come right out of industry! See these and all of our opportunities on our [Careers Webpage](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Erin Kane
Superintendent
Douglas County School District

GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND DCSD

- Ponderosa High School Teacher Honored at AAFCS National Teacher of the Year Luncheon in Orlando**

Congratulations to CAFCS Teacher of the Year and AAFCS Merit Finalist, Kimberly Baldwin! Kimberly teaches Consumer Family Students at Ponderosa High School. Earlier this week, she was honored at the AAFCS National Teacher of the Year luncheon in Orlando. Thank you for all that you do for DCSD's students, Kimberly!
- Cimarron Middle School Student Wins Colorful Colorado Film Festival for Youth**

Congratulations to Cimarron Middle School student Talia Estrella who won first place at the [Colorful Colorado Film Festival for Youth](#) for her animation "[Overwhelmed](#)". She also won the Viewer Choice Award for the film festival. This is the largest and longest-running student film festival in the state, which is run by the Colorado Film School. Talia's film was the only winner from DCSD, and was especially amazing because there is no middle school category, so she had to compete against the state's best high school programs. Way to go Talia!
- DCSD Students Participate in National Speech and Debate Tournament**

Recently, over 6,000 students from across the United States traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in the [National Speech and Debate Tournament](#). Last week we listed the students from DCSD who participated but have been notified that we missed one - our apologies! Congratulations also to Kara Suhr who represented Mountain Vista High School at this event! Thank you Kara for representing DCSD so well!
- Ponderosa High School Students Win Colorado "One Plate Challenge"**

The Colorado School Nutrition Association ran a student cooking competition ("Chopped"-style) with four student teams from around the state. Team "Chop It Like Its Hot," from Ponderosa High School won the "One Plate Challenge." This competition was complete with a professionally produced show and celebrity judges. [Check out the show in its entirety here](#). Congratulations to student chefs Ryan Bennewise and Paris Trahan on their big win!
- Share Your School's Good News!**

We will continue to send these celebratory emails out each week. If we missed a celebration or you have good news to share, [please submit it here](#).

RESOURCES AND TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Mental Health Resource of the Week**

The Health and Mood-Boosting Benefits of Pets

Pets come with some powerful health benefits. Here's how caring for a dog, cat, or other animal can help relieve depression and anxiety, lower stress, and improve your heart health. [Read more >>](#)

- **Literacy Resource of the Week**

- **10 Tips to Help Your Child Fall in Love with Reading**

- Now more than ever, reading can be a great way for children to relax and escape to a different world. Here are 10 ways parents can help build and support a child's love of reading. [Read more >>](#)

- **Total Wellness Resource of the Week**

- **Summer Safety Guide 2022**

- Whether your plans for the summer months include a long-awaited European vacation, or a well-deserved respite at the Jersey Shore, take a few moments to consider these safety tips. Summer, after all, goes so fast – no need to spoil a moment of it with a mishap that could have been avoided. [Read more >>](#)

EVENTS

- **myDCSD Forums**

- Join DCSD Superintendent Erin Kane at an upcoming forum to learn more about how DCSD is funded, the challenges it faces, and how you can help. Bring your questions!

- Monday, July 18 | 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. ([Zoom link](#))

- Wednesday, July 20 | 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ([Zoom link](#))

- **Perseverance Scholarship Golf Tournament**

- Monday, July 25 | Registration - 7am / Shotgun Start - 8am

- Lone Tree Golf Course

- \$125 per person.

- [More Information and Registration](#)

- The Perseverance Golf Tournament** (formally known as Golf for Grads) has returned!

- The primary goal of this golf tournament is to raise funds for the [Perseverance Scholarship*](#) for DCSD graduates, but it will also be a great way to connect DCSD staff prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Serve on a DCSD Board Committee!**

- Our school district relies on citizens, just like you, to serve on various committees and we are currently seeking volunteers for the 2022-2023 school year. [Click here](#) for more information about each committee and how to apply to serve.

- **Free Summer Lunches Are Back!**

DCSD Nutrition Services is again offering free summer lunches to kids under 18. Meals will be distributed at locations in Castle Rock, Highlands Ranch, and Parker from May 31 to July 29. Pickup time may vary by site. [Learn more >>](#)

This will be the last opportunity for all students to receive free meals. Waivers offered by the USDA for free lunches are soon expiring. The Free/Reduced lunch application for 2022-2023 will open on July 15. [Find out more.](#)